

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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MICON: STATE BUDGET COMMITTEE SET TO OK MILLIONS IN PURDUE PROJECTS

INDIANAPOLIS – State Rep. Joe Micon (D-West Lafayette) announced that more than \$70 million in improvement projects for Purdue University are scheduled to be approved by a key group of state fiscal leaders when they meet at the West Lafayette campus on Wednesday (September 14).

During the State Budget Committee's monthly business meeting, which begins at 9 a.m. Wednesday in the Purdue Memorial Union, Micon said members are expected to give final approval to four separate projects that will improve services on the Purdue campus.

"These projects will provide updated student housing, improve parking and upgrade both facilities and fire protection services," Micon said. "I am pleased to see that the State Budget Committee recognizes the importance of these projects to the continuing growth of Purdue University, and is willing to commit the funding that enables these improvements to take place."

Set for final approval at Wednesday's meeting are:

- \$60 million in bonding authority to construct 560 on-campus resident rooms for single students.

Micon said this housing will replace the spaces currently provided in the Hilltop Apartments Complex, which are scheduled to either be demolished or converted into family units. The project also includes a central community center, which will consist of conference rooms, a multi-purpose facility, a computer lab, student club rooms, a mail center and administrative offices.

- \$8.9 million to upgrade fire protection and air conditioning in McCutcheon Hall, including installation of sprinklers and alarms. Micon said the work will be completed in the summers of 2006, 2007 and 2008. Funding for the project comes from university residence repair and rehabilitation reserves.

- \$2.6 million to rebuild the Aquaculture Research and Education Facility, which was destroyed by a fire last November. Micon noted that the project will be rebuilt with insurance recovery funds.

- \$440,235 to help pay for the purchase of 4.3 acres of property adjacent to the Purdue College of Agriculture departmental research farm, located on U.S. 52 northwest of the campus. Micon said the property will be used for future facility development. The purchase will be financed through gift funds.

"Quality facilities are important in Purdue's efforts to attract students and provide them with a quality learning experience," Micon said. "These projects, once approved, will be beneficial to the current population and help entice new students for years to come."

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This news release can be accessed on the Internet at www.IN.gov/H26